

III. REMARKS

2. The drawings were objected to on the grounds that the valve must be shown or the feature cancelled from the claims. Applicant has withdrawn this feature from the claims and therefore the objection should be withdrawn.

3-4. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for the valve language in claim 1. Applicant has cancelled the objected to terminology from claim 1 even though the applicant does not agree with the Examiner. Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

5-7. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase "said first member". This has been replaced with -- said valve plate-- which does have antecedent basis. Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

8-9. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wise U.S. Patent 3,621,868 in view of the Miller U.S. Patent 6,627,527. As the Examiner has recognized, Wise which discloses valves for a face mask

does not disclose a valve pin insert wherein the body has a lower shank at one end of the body and an upper shank adjacent to the lower shank, the lower shank being of a first diameter and the upper shank being of a second diameter, the first diameter being less than the second diameter and wherein between the lower shank and the upper shank of the body an undercut shoulder forms a recess opening in the direction toward the lower shank, the recess forming a tooth that shears material of the valve plate as the pin is inserted into a hole in the valve plate and wherein said valve pin insert has an insert position, wherein when in said insert position said upper and lower shank are disposed in said valve plate.

The Miller patent does not disclose or suggest that Miller's invention - a dowel generally

used for manufacturing or repairing furniture can be used as a valve insert. There is no suggestion in Miller that Miller's dowel structure shown in Fig. 4B forms a tooth that **shears material as the dowel is inserted in a preformed hole**. As miller clearly shows in Fig. 3 the hole is constructed to the shape of the dowel. This is further acknowledged by Miller in Column 6 lines 20-23.

Further, there is no disclosure that the dowel of miller could or should be used as a valve pin insert and there certainly is no suggestion by Wise that his valve pin should be reconstructed into the shape of Miller's furniture dowel. Without a teaching from the prior art an obvious rejection is improper.

Further the attached 132 Declaration of inventor Fuksa clearly sets forth that the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 is not obvious to a person skilled in the art let alone to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

10. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wise U.S. Patent 3,621,868 and the Miller US Patent 6,627,527 for reasons as applied to claim 1 and further in view of the Kawaguchi et al U.S. Publication 2003/0181560. The Examiner has stated that my claim 3 is obvious over Wise in view of Miller for the reasons set forth in his rejection of claim 1 and further in view of Kawaguchi et al who discloses the chemical PEEK. We are not claiming the PEEK composition or any of the compositions claimed and disclosed by Kawaguchi et al . However we are claiming the valve pin insert as claimed in claim 1 wherein the valve pin insert is made of PEEK. As noted above Wise and Miller do not teach or suggest the claimed invention and Kawaguchi et al does not suggest or disclose the use of a PEEK valve stem insert having the

structure of our claim 1. The only suggestion of having a PEEK valve stem insert with the structure set forth in our claim 1 is our application. My invention is the only suggestion for claim 3.

Further the attached 132 Declaration of inventor Fuksa clearly sets forth that the subject matter of claim 3 is not be obvious to a person skilled in the art let alone a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

11. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wise U.S. Patent 3,621,868 and the Miller US Patent 6,627,527 for reasons as applied to claim 1 and further in view of the Malloy et al U.S. Patent 4,146,206. Malloy et al discloses a valve seat liner made of PTFE. We are not claiming a PTFE valve seat or a valve seat liner made of PTFE. However we are claiming the valve pin insert as claimed in claim 1 in combination with a valve plate made of PTFE. As noted above Wise and Miller do not teach or suggest our invention. Malloy et al does not disclose or suggest using my valve stem insert with a valve plate made of PTFE. Malloy et al does not even disclose or suggest that their dowels 30 and 31(which are not valve stem inserts) are to be inserted into PTFE. The only suggestion of having a PTFE valve plate in combination with the valve stem insert having the structure set forth in our claim 1 is our application. My invention is the only suggestion for claim 4.

Further the attached 132 Declaration of inventor Fuksa clearly sets forth that the subject matter of claim 4 is not be obvious to a person skilled in the art, let alone a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

12. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wise U.S. Patent 3,621,868 and the Miller US Patent 6,627,527 for reasons as applied to claim 1 and further in view of the Runge U.S. Patent 4,182,217. Runge discloses a molded molybolt device. Runge does not relate to or suggest valve pin inserts let alone valve pin insert having the structure of our claim 1. We are not claiming molded molybolts as disclosed by Runge. However we are claiming a valve pin insert in combination with a valve plate wherein the valve pin insert's undercut is molded. Wise and Miller do not teach or suggest our invention as stated above and Runge does not disclose that valve pin of Wise or that any valve pin should have an undercut shoulder as claimed in our claim 1. The only suggestion of having a valve pin insert in combination with the valve plate and wherein the valve pin insert has the structure set forth in our claim 1 with an the shoulder being a molded undercut is our application. Our invention is the only suggestion for claim 5.

Further the attached 132 Declaration of inventor Fuksa clearly sets forth that the subject matter of claim 5 is not obvious to a person skilled in the art, let alone to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

13. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wise U.S. Patent 3,621,868 and the Miller US Patent 6,627,527 for reasons as applied to claim 1 and further in view of the Kindt U.S. Patent 2,221,141. Kindt discloses screw dowel pins. We are not claiming screw dowel pins nor the use of machining for screw dowel pins, as shown in Kindt. Kindt does not disclose or suggest that his dowel pins should be used as a valve pin insert or that the valve pin of Wise

should have a machined undercut or even that the dowels of Miller should be reconstructed as screw dowels. Wise and Miller do not teach or suggest our invention as stated above and Kindt does not disclose nor suggest that his screw dowels can be used as valve pin inserts or that any valve pin insert should have an machined undercut shoulder as claimed in our claim 6. The only suggestion of having a valve pin insert in combination with the valve plate and wherein the valve pin insert has the structure set forth in our claim 1 with a machined undercut shoulder, is our application. Our application is the only suggestion for claim 6.

Further the attached 132 Declaration of inventor Fuksa clearly sets forth that the subject matter of claim 6 is not obvious to a person skilled in the art, let alone to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

14. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wise U.S. Patent 3,621,868 and the Miller US Patent 6,627,527 for reasons as applied to claim 1 and further in view of the Hinkel U.S. Patent 6,435,758. Hinkel discloses a torque converter coupling 64 having an undercut shoulder. There is no suggestion that any of the structures for Hinkel should be used for a valve pin insert. It must be recognized that we are not claiming undercutting in general. However we are claiming a valve pin insert in combination with a valve plate set forth in claims 1 and 7. Wise and Miller do not teach or suggest my invention as stated above. Hinkel does not disclose or suggest that the dowel of Miller or the valve pin of Wise should be manufactured to conform to his torque converter coupling. The only suggestion of having a valve pin insert in combination with the valve plate and wherein the valve pin insert has the structure set forth in our claim 1 with a machined undercut shoulder extending to a depth beneath the surface of the lower shank,

is our application. Our application is the only suggestion for claim 7.

Further the attached 132 Declaration of inventor Fuksa clearly sets forth that the subject matter of claim 7 is not obvious to a person skilled in the art, let alone to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

15. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the Wise U.S. Patent 3,621,868 and the Miller US Patent 6,627,527 for reasons as applied to claim 1 and further in view of our Exhibit A. Exhibit A discloses a valve pin insert that does not have the structure of our claim 1 but does have a stud extending axially outwardly from the body. Wise and Miller do not teach or suggest my invention as stated above and Exhibit A does not disclose that the dowel of Miller should have a stud extending axially outwardly from the body. In fact it appears that if such a stud was put on the Miller dowel this would be contrary to the purpose of Miller's invention. The only suggestion of having a valve pin insert in combination with the valve plate and wherein the valve pin insert has the structure set forth in our claim 1 and has a stud extending axially outwardly from the body, is our application. Our application is the only suggestion for claim 8.

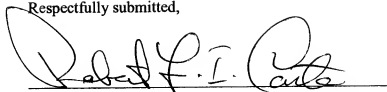
Further the attached 132 Declaration of inventor Fuksa clearly sets forth that the subject matter of claim 8 is not obvious to a person skilled in the art, let alone to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Therefore it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a favorable Action and an early Notice of Allowance is requested

December 19, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. I. Conte", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert F. I. Conte
Registration No.
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
Telephone: (312) 357-1313